Appointment of Section Officers

3298. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 212 given in Rajya Sabha on 24th November, 2005 and state the cases filed in various High Courts and CATs (Central Administrative Tribunals) on the issue of creation of posts of Section Officers of CSS Cadre and diversion of 50 per cent of the posts to limited departmental competitive examination, etc.; with the present status of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): A case (O.A. No. 1091/2005) was filed in Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Principal Bench by Shri Kailash Chander & Others *Vs.* Union of India & Others, *inter alia*, seeking direction for not filling up the newly created posts (pursuant to cadre restructuring of CSS) on the basis of the results of the Section Officer's Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2003. The O.A. was dismissed by the CAT *vide* order dated 26.07.2005. The applicants, thereafter, filed Writ Petition No. 13245-60/ 2005 in the High Court of Delhi against the order dated 26.07.2005 of the CAT in O.A. No. 1091/2005. The matter is presently *sub judice*.

Reforms in coal sector

3299. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has put forward some proposals to bring reforms in the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals sent by Planning Commission;

(c) whether one of the proposals is regarding captive Coal Ministry by private parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) No proposal has been put forward by Planning Commission to bring reforms in the coal sector. However, in this reference, Planning Commission has made several policy recommendations in the Tenth Five Year Plan which were re-iterated during Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan. Recommendations made there under are given in the Statement for reference.

Statement

List of Recommendations as per Mid Term Review of the Tenth Plan

1. Pending the passage of the Coal Bill 2000, increase the number of players in coal mining through captive mining. Increase the flexibility of captive mines by permitting captive block holders to sell incidental coal surpluses during development and operation of the block to CIL or directly to currently linked end users; and allow group-captive mines. Set a target for the Ministry of Coal to achieve at least 50 mt. of captive production by 2012.

2. Amend Section 3 of the coal mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to facilitate offering of coal blocks to potential entrepreneurs through competitive bidding.

3. Restructure CIL. One possibility could be dismantling of the holding company structure, extending autonomy to the individual coal companies, allowing these coal companies to compete with one another and reviving the loss making coal PSUs.

4. Permit trading and marketing of coal by removing it from the list of essential commodities.

5. Make available about 10 per cent of the domestic production through e-auctions open to traders and actual users.

6. Promote additional thermal coal imports (through MMTC or any other body) under long term supply contracts similar to those followed by Japan. Starting with a commitment to import an additional 5 mt. by 2006-07, negotiate up to 50 mt. of thermal coal imports by 2012 at prices competitive with domestic coal. Such coal imports could feed coastal power plants. Further, the Ministry of Coal should encourage captive mines and/or equity coal in the source countries in support of such imports.

7. Change grading and pricing of non-coking coal from the existing useful heat value (UHV) (based on excessively wide bands for grading coal on the basis on an obsolete empirical formula whose validity is in doubt) to the international practice of pricing coal based on gross calorific value (GCV). This is expected to encourage efficient use and promote use of washed coal.

8. Amend the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to facilitate offloading of certain activities in coal mining for improved economics of operations.

9. Replace coal linkages with fuel supply agreements. As a step towards abolishing coal linkages completely, these linkages could be made tradable in the first instance.

10. Promote in *situ* coal gasification and tapping of coal bed methane.

11. Rationalise rail freight rates for coal transport.

12. Extend infrastructure staus to the coal industry. Lower duties on capital goods imported for coalmines.

13. Institute an independent regulatory mechanism for the coal sector.

14. Review the royalty on coal and consider switching to an *advalorem* basis.

BPL people in Goa

3300. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who are below poverty line in the State of Goa;

(b) the criteria/formula adopted to arrive at the figure;

(c) whether the criteria/formula so far adopted are focused not to be foolproof; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a new formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. The percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line using the data from that survey on household consumption expenditure, in the State of Goa is given below:

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line during 1999-2000

	Rural		Urban		Combined	
States/U.Ts	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40

Note: Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.